Ambulatory Pediatrics II. Personal Health Care of Children in the Office. Edited by Morris Green and Robert J. Haggerty. 500 pp. Illust. W.B. Saunders Company Canada Limited, Toronto, 1977. $22.70. ISBN 0-7216-4236-5

There is nothing esoteric here. Green and Haggerty have produced a text in the tradition of "Pediatric Diagnosis" (2nd ed, Philadelphia, Saunders, 1962) by Green and Richmond. Specific problems in pediatrics are itemized in each chapter. The book lends perspective and describes the practice of general pediatrics as it really is.

The chapters are brief. Approximately 60 topics are discussed by a team of 42 experts from a variety of medical centres across the United States. A short list of current and historically important references follows each chapter.

There are three sections: the first two deal with the treatment and prevention of common organic and psychologic problems, and the concluding section includes a number of chapters devoted to the subjects of office management, business considerations and techniques of establishing and operating a successful practice. Pediatricians about to embark on a career in general private pediatrics will find this final section most useful.

The book is well laid out; the matt finish of the pages makes for easy reading and the various topics are easy to find. Each chapter covers a new topic and begins at the top of a new page. The print is clear and the headings are in bold face; the tables and figures are concise and few in number, and explain clearly the various subjects. One notable exception is a complex full-page flow-chart that explains the sequence of events to be followed in the proper investigation of a patient with suspected urinary tract infection.

An excellent example of the value of this book is the chapter by Fuller entitled "Speech and hearing problems". He makes no attempt to give the details of treatment; instead, one is referred to an existent resource such as Lillywhite's review of normal language performance at successive age levels. In three pages Fuller provides the reader with an overview of the subject and general guidelines for patient evaluation and management. He recommends as office screening procedures the Denver articulation examination and the 50-item screening articulation test because they are based on a chronologic rating and are simple to administer. But the primary-care physician is given specific indications for referral of patients with dysfluencies to experts in child development, speech therapy and audiology. Fuller reminds us that audiologists can test children even in infancy and that there is no justification for postponing audiologic assessment because of age. Fuller's sentences are a précis of important information on complicated subjects. For example, he tells us that "by the time he reaches his eighth birthday, the average child will have mastered prosodic features and virtually all of the grammar of his natural language, and will have acquired mature articulation skills."

The book will be of special interest to persons entering practice and those preparing teaching seminars and lectures in practical pediatrics. It will serve the novice in the primary care of children as a guide in distinguishing the common from the unusual.

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Atlas of Strabismus Surgery. 2nd ed. Edited by Eugene M. Helveston, 262 pp. Illust. The C.V. Mosby Company, Saint Louis, 1977. $37.30. ISBN 0-8016-2138-0

Eugene M. Helveston won critical acclaim in 1973 with his first edition of the "Atlas of Strabismus Surgery". For the first time ophthalmologists had at close hand an atlas that described clearly and concisely the common surgical procedures performed on the extraocular muscles. This second edition follows a similar format. Following a summary of surgical anatomy, the author describes in detail the possible approaches to weakening and strengthening the extraocular muscles and their potential complications. On facing pages the text is complemented by excellent drawings and clinical photographs where applicable.

Of particular interest is the chapter entitled "A logical scheme for the planning of strabismus surgery", which includes an assessment of both the motor and sensory status, and offers a rationale for which muscles to assault and how much to do. Thereafter follows a series of aphorisms regarding surgical options that are very much to the point.

New material in this edition includes a chapter on the Faden operation (posterior fixation suture), adustable sutures and synthetic absorbable sutures. Force generation testing is also described.

Practitioners and residents in ophthalmology not familiar with this book will enjoy it on first reading and find it a practical and comprehensive reference text.

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Clinical Physiology of Acid–Base and Electrolyte Disorders. Burton David Rose. 548 pp. Illust. McGraw-Hill, Inc., New York; McGraw-Hill Ryerson Limited, Scarborough, 1977. $13.15, paperbound. ISBN 0-07-053621-X

The author's approach to the subject of the physiology of body fluid and renal functions, and disorders of water, acid–base and electrolyte balance is presented in this easily readable book. The organization is good and subject matter clear.

The physiology of body fluid, renal physiology, and regulation of water and

electrolytes are reviewed in chapters 1 to 13. The accounts are not exhaustive but are comprehensive. In chapter 1 units of measurement are described clearly.

Chapters 14 to 27 are devoted to the subjects of acid–base balance, sodium abnormalities, osmolar problems, hypo- and hyperkalemia and diuretics. There is a fair amount of repetition, especially at the beginning of the chapter, but this may be of service for beginners in this field.

At the end of most chapters problems are presented that re-emphasize the important concepts, and one chapter contains a summary of important equations and formulas that would be very helpful in clinical settings.

Although it has an up-to-date bibliography this is by no means a reference book. However it would be useful to medical students, house staff and practising physicians, and candidates taking examinations, and anyone involved in teaching would benefit from it.

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Disturbances in Body Fluid Osmolality. Edited by Thomas E. Andreoli, Jared J. Grantham and Floyd C. Rector, Jr. 347 pp. Illust. American Physiological Society, Bethesda; Burns & MacEachern Limited, Don Mills, 1977. $28.75. ISBN 0683-0026.4

This attempt to gather some of the conclusions of a symposium on disturbances in body fluids and osmolality into a single readable package has been successful, particularly for persons who have a special interest in this field. The stated dual aim is to provide a source of information for the physiologist concerned with processes that contribute to the regulation of body fluid osmolality, and to supply a useful reference for the clinician faced with the evaluation, diagnosis and management of patients afflicted with derangements in body fluid homeostasis.

The first nine chapters describe in great detail the molecular aspects of antidiuretic hormone and its action and role in body fluid homeostasis, and animal models for hypothalamic and nephrogenic diabetes insipidus. The data obtained by using newer methods of measurement of antidiuretic hormone are of great interest. However, reading may be difficult, if not tedious, for persons without special interest in the finer details, theories and facts about the source, regulation and action of antidiuretic hormone. Forty-four pages are devoted to references.

The last six chapters provide an approach to the classification of clinical disorders of body fluid homeostasis, and their diagnosis and management.